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MTD CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL DUMP THE PUMP DAY, JUNE 17

With the economic recession still in effect, Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) announced today that it will join with other public transportation systems nationwide to participate in the Fifth Annual National Dump the Pump Day on Thursday, June 17th. The slogan of this year's National Dump the Pump Day is *"Dump the Pump. Save Money. Ride Transit."*

Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the 2010 National Dump the Pump Day is a day that encourages people to ride public transportation and save money, instead of driving a car. In this economic climate, with Santa Barbara gas prices averaging \$3.20 per gallon, saving money is on everyone's minds and public transportation is the quickest way to beat high gas prices.

"Public transportation also has an important role to play in the energy and environmental debate," said David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations. "If you leave your car behind to take public transportation, you will be helping to reduce America's dependence on foreign energy and combat climate change."

MTD is sponsoring a contest for first-time MTD riders who would like to share their Dump the Pump experiences on June 17th. Send your "My Dump the Pump Day!" essay (limit: 100 words; must be 18 years or older) to contest@sbmtd.gov. Entries may be published on the MTD website and possibly other media. Deadline for entries is July 5th. First prize is an MTD 30-Day Pass (value: \$52). Entries must include: name, address, phone or cell number and age. Follow @SantaBarbaraMTD on Twitter, to share Dump the Pump ideas, plans and suggestions throughout Dump the Pump Day.

"America is facing a number of significant economic and environmental challenges right now," said Sherrie Fisher, MTD General Manager. "People who use public transportation are helping to answer those challenges for themselves and for their country. That's why we're asking people to join us and Dump the Pump on June 17th."

The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), with its focus on passenger service, provides a reliable, safe, comfortable means of mobility to those who lack other transportation, including students, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. MTD also provides an attractive transportation option for commuters and shoppers who might otherwise drive a car. MTD provides more than 31,000 passenger trips each weekday resulting in 22,676 cars being left at home on weekdays. MTD provided more than 8,300,000 passenger trips last fiscal year. Santa Barbara is recognized as a transit intensive community and is ranked in the top ten in the nation for per capita bus usage. MTD operates North America's largest fleet of 100% battery electric buses. Additionally, MTD was the first in California to operate its fleet of diesel and diesel-electric buses with a bio-diesel blend of fuel.

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